

The YACKITY-YAC

AMBASSADOR CORNER

When I think of November I think of wonderful things like turkey, stuffing, and lots of pumpkin pie! It is also a month in which we should think of the things that we are thankful for. For me Thanksgiving is more than just remembering those things I have been blessed with, it is providing those things to others, it is taking action to show that I really am thankful for what I have. That is why I am going to make it to the polls this month, because I am thankful for democracy, for a right to voice my opinion, for the freedoms we enjoy here in America. Before we kick off our Thanksgiving celebrations and enjoy our time with family it is important to remember our obligation to our country. On November 3rd the voting process, one of the most visible sign of democracy in our nation, will be over until next year, but that doesn't mean our responsibility stops or that we have fulfilled our duty completely. No it means we have taken the first step and should continue to be involved, but how? Involvement at the polls and afterwards is something that has been referred to as Civic Engagement.

Civic means of or relating to a citizen, a city, citizenship, or civil affairs. Engagement means to begin and carry on an enterprise or activity, or to take part in. So what does **Civic Engagement** mean to you?



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

WHAT IS IT?

ENGAGEMENT IS MORE THAN 'JUST VOLUNTEERING' - THOUGH VOLUNTEERING CAN BE ENGAGEMENT.
ENGAGEMENT IS MORE THAN 'JUST VOTING' - THOUGH VOTING CAN BE ENGAGEMENT.
ENGAGEMENT IS A COMBINATION OF VOICE, ACTION AND REFLECTION.
ENGAGEMENT EXISTS WHEN INDIVIDUALS REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES NOT ONLY TO THEMSELVES OR THEIR FAMILIES, BUT TO THEIR COMMUNITIES - LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THOSE COMMUNITIES IS ESSENTIAL TO THEIR OWN HEALTH AND WELLBEING. THEY ACT IN ORDER TO FULFILL THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES AND TRY TO IMPACT THOSE COMMUNITIES FOR THE BETTER. AND IN TURN, THOSE ACTIONS GIVE THEM AN EVEN DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

FROM THE SOON TO BE PUBLISHED RAISE YOUR VOICE LESSONS LEARNED PUBLICATION THROUGH CAMPUS COMPACT BY TARA GERMOND, ELLEN LOVE, LIZ MORAN, STEPHANIE RAILL, SHERITA MOSES

Civic Engagement is...

- the opposite of apathy and indifference
- the reason someone gets involved more than the involvement itself
- taking responsibility
- starting where you are and making a difference, whether big or small

The Yackity-YAC is published by the Utah Commission on Volunteers. Please share this newsletter with anyone you know who is interested in youth service in Utah. For more information or for an event or item to submit for publishing consideration please contact Teresa at 1-888-755-UTAH or yes@utahspromise.org

Upcoming Events

Be involved! Continue to make a difference in your community!

National Days of Service

Nov. 20 -National Family Volunteer Day



Families that volunteer together not only make a difference in the lives of others but are stronger as a family unit, have better communication and are happier! So get your family together and do something good on National Family Volunteer

Day. For projects in your community contact your local volunteer center at <http://volunteers.utah.gov/>

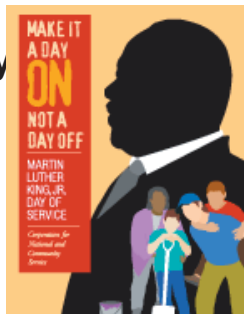
January 17, 2005--

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Keep the legacy of Dr. King's Service alive in your community.

A statewide food drive is being coordinated by Shelley Beal, director of AmeriCorps and the Medically Underserved in Utah.

If you or your organization would like to be a part of or head up the effort in your community, contact Shelley at americorps@auch.org.



Civic Engagement is embodied in the words of President Kennedy spoken at his inaugural address:

"We observe today not a victory of party, but a celebration of freedom - symbolizing an end, as well as a beginning - signifying renewal, as well as change."

"The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life."

"In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than in mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course...Now the trumpet summons us again... to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself."

"And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you: Ask what you can do for your country."

"With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love..."

Call for Award Nominations

Pay tribute to individuals that best exemplify the spirit of service by nominating them for the Harris Wofford Awards. Established in April 2002, the Harris Wofford Awards recognize extraordinary achievements of an Individual, Institution, and Media organization or member that actively contributes to "Making service and service-learning the common expectation and common experience of every young person in America".

For more information and nomination forms go to www.ysa.org



Throughout Utah, thousands of volunteers are helping to strengthen their communities everyday. The Governor's Points of Light Award is aimed at recognizing just a few of the many volunteers helping to make Utah a better state, while promoting and inspiring further volunteer efforts. The Governor's Points of Light Award is a weekly award presented quarterly to Utah residents who demonstrate exemplary volunteer service to their communities.

Nomination forms are available at www.volunteers.utah.gov/awards or through the Utah Commission on Volunteers at 801-764-0704

"THE IMPORTANT TASKS OF A DEMOCRACY ARE DONE BY EVERYONE."
"WHAT YOU DO IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANYTHING GOVERNMENT DOES. I ASK YOU TO... BE CITIZENS, NOT SPECTATORS; CITIZENS, NOT SUBJECTS; RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF SERVICE AND A NATION OF CHARACTER."

~PRESIDENT BUSH